Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 A-01 PER-01 SY-04 /013 W

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R 131331Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2305

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ALOW, ET

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INCREASED DIFFERENTIAL

1. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE HARDSHIP DIFFERENTIAL AT THIS POST BE IMMEDIATELY INCREASED FROM 10 PERCENT TO 25 PERCENT. SUCH RECOGNITION OF THE GREATLY INCREASED DANGER AND TENSION TO WHICH US GOVERNMENT PERSONNL AT THIS POST ARE CURRENTLY SUBJECTED IS ALREADY OVERDUE.

2. IN THE NEW POST DIFFERENTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WE TRANSMITTED BY POUCH ON DECEMBER 11, WE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH USG PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN WORKING THIS YEAR AND WILL BE WORKING FOR A LONG TIME TO COME. WE ARE NOW IN THE MIDST OF A REVOLUTION WHICH BEGAN IN JANUARY OF 1974, HAS TURNED INCREASINGLY RADICAL, AND IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAS INVOLVED THE DEPOSITION OF THE EMPEROR. THE EXECUTION OF 60 ETHIOPIAN LEADERS (INCLUDING THREE WHO HAD BEEN PRIME MINISTER THIS YEAR), AND MAJOR TERRORIST ACTIONS IN THE CITY. U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN LIVING UNDER CONDITIONS OF INCREASING STRESS AND TENSION SINCE FEBRUARY AND HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN INFORMED THROUGH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES TO CURTAIL THEIR MOVEMENTS. THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HERE MAY WELL BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE SAFETY THAN ANY OTHER AMERICAN COMMUNITY ABROAD. IT IS THE CONSENSUS OF OBSERVERS HERE THAT THE PERSONAL SAFETY THREAT TO AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS IS LIKELY TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE EVEN GREATER IN 1975 THAN IT HAS BEEN IN 1974.

3. EVENTS IN THE WEEK PRECEDING DECEMBER 11 INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: A PHONE CALL TO THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS THREATENING THAT SEVERAL AMBASSADORS WILL SHORTLY BE KIDNAPPED AND SEVERAL EMBASSIES BLOWN UP; A LETTER TO THE CHARGE THREATENING THAT TWO AMERICANS IN COUNTRY WILL BE KILLED FOR EVERY UNNECESSARY VOA BROADCAST REGARDING ETHIOPIA; AND THE HURLING OF A LARGE ROCK AT AN EMBASSY OFFICER IN HIS CAR WITH SUFFICIENT FORCE SO THAT IT PASSED THROUGH BOTH REAR WINDOWS. WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 DEC 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS14842

Document Number: 1974ADDIS14842 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D740362-0974 From: ADDIS ABABA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741238/aaaabgnb.tel Line Count: 72

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION OPR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: MorefiRH

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 25 SEP 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: REQUEST FOR INCREASED DIFFERENTIAL

TAGS: ALOW, ET To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005